

# FACT SHEET

## HCB 017

### Standards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Under the Texas Hazard Communication Act

#### **Texas Hazard Communication Act (THCA) Rules Revisions:**

The THCA's administrative rules, codified as Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code, Section 295.1 – 295.12, were revised effective September 1, 1999, to ensure consistency between the Rules and the THCA (Chapter 502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code). These revisions require employers to ensure appropriate selection, fit testing, and functionality of personal protective equipment (PPE) issued to employees and to provide employees with additional training on the maintenance and storage of PPE. These revisions no longer hold employers liable for employees' failure to use PPE so long as the employer complies with §295.2(3) and §295.12(g) of the Rules.

#### **Standards for PPE:**

§295.2(3) of the THCA Rules defines appropriate PPE to be equipment that is provided to an employee by the employer and affords an appropriate level of protection from chemicals to which the employee may be exposed. Examples of PPE include items such as gloves, safety/splash proof goggles, respirators, etc.

The protection given by the use of PPE should be adequate to ensure employee health and safety based on current industry standards. In selecting PPE, the employer shall consider all possible routes of entry, permeability of PPE materials, duties being performed by the employee, hazardous chemicals present, and other factors that may affect equipment performance. The employer must ensure that the equipment properly fits the individual employee and is functional for its intended use as described by the manufacturer's specifications.

§295.12(g) of the THCA Rules guarantees the rights of employees to receive appropriate PPE from their employer. Employers shall provide appropriate PPE to employees who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals in their workplace. The employer shall also provide additional training to employees regarding appropriate maintenance and storage of PPE to ensure that contamination does not occur.

#### **Questions About PPE?**

If you have questions about Personal Protective Equipment or other requirements of the Texas Hazard Communication Act, contact the Division for Regulatory Services, Enforcement Unit, at (512) 834-6665, or [www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/hazcom](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/hazcom).

#### **Additional THCA Fact Sheets available from the Enforcement Unit:**

- FACT SHEET: HCB 002 Revisions to the Administrative Rules of the Texas Hazard Communication Act. Effective September 1, 1999
- FACT SHEET: HCB 003 Model Written Hazard Communication Program for Public Employers in Texas
- FACT SHEET: HCB 005 Workplace Chemical List
- FACT SHEET: HCB 006 Standards for Current and Substitute Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs)
- FACT SHEET: HCB 007 Standards for Chemical Container Labels
- FACT SHEET: HCB 009 Model Employee Training Roster

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